

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. NEUMANN

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YROK

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
USIA
CIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A/

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 7

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1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 1977:
FYI ONLY, THE OFFICER DOING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS HODDING
CARTER:

Q. HAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED THE VARIOUS PARTIES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO PREPARE DRAFT TREATIES FOR AN OVERALL
PEACE SETTLEMENT?
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A. YES. AS YOU KNOW, WE ASKED THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE
EAST TO GIVE US THEIR IDEAS ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF SUBJECTS
INVOLVED IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS WHEN WE WERE OUT THERE, AND
AS PART OF THAT, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN US ITS
IDEAS ON PEACE TREATIES WITH THE ARAB STATES, AND IT IS
ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT OTHERS WILL ALSO BRING THEIR IDEAS
OF DRAFT PEACE TREATIES TO US.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS --

A. WE DO NOT, INCIDENTALLY, HAVE THOSE AT THIS POINT.

Q. YES. BUT IS THAT THE WAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT EN-
VISIONS THE NEXT STAGE OF THE PROCESS THAT THE VARIOUS
PARTIES ALL PUT TOGETHER THEIR DRAFTS, AND THEN THESE ARE
FINALLY PUT TOGETHER?

A. ACTUALLY, IF DRAFTS ARE MADE AVAILABLE, THEY CERTAINLY
WILL BE BOTH COMPARED AND USED AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION
WITH ALL THE PARTIES THAT ARE HERE, BUT I DON'T WANT YOU
TO THINK THAT THAT IS THE ENTIRE PEDESTAL ON WHICH THE

EFFORT RESTS. THE IDEAS THEY MAY HAVE ON DRAFT PEACE TREATIES, THEIR IDEAS THEY MAY HAVE ON OTHER MATTERS WHICH PRECEDE A PEACE TREATY AND HOW TO GET TO GENEVA, IN OTHER WORDS, AND OTHER MATTERS, WILL ALL BE DISCUSSED WHEN THEY COME HERE.

Q. AT WHAT POINT WILL THE UNITED STATES PUT FORTH ITS WRITTEN IDEAS?

A. I DON'T THINK WE ARE GOING TO OFFER AGAIN A SET OF PROPOSALS. WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, OFFERED SOME IDEAS AND PRINCIPLES WHICH WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THEM AS WHAT WE THINK ARE THE SORT OF FUNDAMENTAL, OVER-ARCHING PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO INCORPORATE, BUT THE SPECI-

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FICS OF WHAT IS GOING TO COME OUT OF A PEACE TREATY OR COMES OUT OF GENEVA, THAT REALLY IS A MATTER FOR THE PARTIES AND NOT FOR US.

Q. DID THE ISRAELI'S GIVE YOU THEIR IDEAS IN DRAFT FORM? DRAFT TREATY FORM?

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT A DRAFT TREATY WAS SUBMITTED, YES. AT LEAST, THIS IS THE BEST UNDERSTANDING THAT I HAVE OF IT.

Q. WAS IT GIVEN TO THE SECRETARY AT THE TIME HE WAS THERE?

A. NO, I THINK TRANSMITTED SINCE THEN.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN?

A. NO, BUT I BELIEVE RELATIVELY RECENTLY.

Q. NONE HAVE COME SO FAR FROM ANY OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES?

A. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE DRAFT TREATY?

A. OH, NO, WE DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT AT THIS TIME. WE ARE FAR MORE INTERESTED IN GETTING A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FROM ALL THE PARTIES.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT ACTION IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO PREVENT ISRAEL FROM PURSUING ITS POLICY OF SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK, I WOULD SAY BEYOND ACTIONS TO THE POINT OF SANCTIONS?

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A. I THINK AT THIS POINT THAT WHAT WE HAVE SAID -- AND YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, WHAT, A SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, WHICH I GUESS IT WOULD HAVE TO BE TO HAVE ANY WEIGHT? -- THAT WE BELIEVE WE STILL HAVE THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS FOR A PEACE AGREEMENT IN RESOLUTION 242, AND THAT WE DO NOT FEEL IT IS NECESSARY TO TAKE ANY OTHER STEPS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, FOR THAT (RESOLUTION 242) IS A FULL AND ADEQUATE BASIS FOR PEACE.

Q. (QUESTION INAUDIBLE)

A. THE QUESTION IS, ARE WE PREPARED TO GO INTO ANYTHING ELSE? I THINK THAT DOES ANSWER THE QUESTION, INsofar AS A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION GOES.

Q. THE QUESTION WAS ABOUT U.N. ACTION ON THE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS, WHICH WAS REQUESTED BY EGYPT TO BE TAKEN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

A. YES, INsofar AS THAT GOES, INsofar AS ANY NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES FOR PROPOSALS BY NATIONS, GROUPS, OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU, I AM GOING TO RESERVE OUR COMMENT FOR WHAT WE WILL MAKE CLEAR AT THE TIME OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Q. AS DEVELOPED OVER THE WEEKEND, HAVE YOU BEEN INFORMED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF A SERIES OF ACTIONS THAT THE SO-CALLED MODERATES HAVE AGREED UPON?

A. YES, WE SAW THAT. WE DON'T HAVE OFFICIAL INFORMATION-- --AT LEAST WE HADN'T WHEN I WAS GIVEN THE ANSWER YESTERDAY.

Q. IT'S A TWO-STEP THING.

A. BUT IN ANY CASE, YES, WE'VE SEEN THAT, AND WHAT I'M SAYING IS, THAT IN RESPONSE TO THAT OUR REACTION WILL BE
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MADE KNOWN AT THE TIME OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ASSUMING THAT THEY ARE IN FACT OFFERED.

Q. I MIGHT JUST MAKE MENTION OF THAT: WHILE THE STATE

DEPARTMENT SAID YESTERDAY IT HAD NO COMMENT ON THE CAIRO DISCUSSIONS, THE VOICE OF AMERICA INDICATED THAT THE U.S.

GOVERNMENT OR U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SEEMED TO TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT THEY DIDN'T GO FURTHER THAN THEY DID IN CAIRO. I THINK THAT THAT IN ITSELF IS SORT OF A COMMENT.

A. YES, WELL IT WAS, EXCEPT THAT I THINK THE VOICE IN THAT CASE WAS SORT OF PICKING UP THE COMMENT THAT WAS WRITTEN FROM OTHER JOURNALISTIC SOURCES WHICH EXPRESSED THAT, AND AS YOU KNOW, I CAN'T DEAL WITH WHAT EVERY SINGLE OFFICIAL SAYS TO EVERY ONE OF YOU ON THE SIDE.

Q. BUT LET ME ASK YOU ONE MORE QUESTION IN THIS CONNECTION: SAUDI ARABIA HAS DECLARED AGAIN, ACCORDING TO A WIRE SERVICE REPORT OUT OF CYPRUS, OUT OF NICOSIA, WHERE IT WAS MONITORED APPARENTLY, SAUDI ARABIA DECLARED AGAIN TODAY THAT REGAINING JERUSALEM FROM ISRAELI OCCUPATION IS, IN THE REPORTED WORDS OF SAUDI MINISTER OF INFORMATION -- NO NAME -- "THE PRIME CAUSE OF ISLAM," AND THAT THIS SAUDI ARABIAN STATE RADIO BROADCAST, MONITORED IN NICOSIA, SAID THAT "THE SAUDIS WILL PROMOTE THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL UNTIL THE REFUGEES ARE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMELAND." WHAT DO WE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT PRESS REPORT.

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